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STAT

March 19, 1985

Hon. Daniel K. Inouye
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Inouye:

I write to ask your help in gaining retirement and health benefits for those women left out of the CIA Spouses' Retirement Equity Act of 1982. Your work in enacting that constructive legislation is well remembered and much applauded by CIA women. When you offered the legislation to the Senate, you noted:

> "Establishing the effective date in this way leaves certain spouses, who are divorced before the enactment of the amendments, without additional protection. While the Committee realizes that this group has certainly made an important contribution as a result of their marriages, it has decided not to pursue a statutory remedy in their favor at this time. This is because to do so would be retroactively to change the amount of payments already being received under CIARDS and possibly even affect the validity of existing divorce decrees. At some future date the Congress may wish, nevertheless, to consider providing additional benefits to this group in recognition of their important service."

Senator, some fifty of those former spouses--they were the very embodiment of the injury your act sought to remedy--are still waiting for action to correct this serious inequity. Congress should act now.

These women also urgently need government health benefits. As you are aware, the 98th Congress provided such benefits to former spouses of Civil Service employees. Former CIA spouses should receive equal treatment.

We are aware that you have left the intelligence oversight committee but we are confident that you are still interested in correcting the inequity you saw in the 1982 act. We ask now that you help us find a sponsor on the intelligence committee to introduce corrective legislation.

I and my colleagues in this endeavor are prepared to meet with you at any time to discuss this situation.

Sincerely,

Barbara Colby

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Ltr. To Sen. Inouye
From Barbar Colby
Seeking Support

March 19, 1985
50 spouses / waiting

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